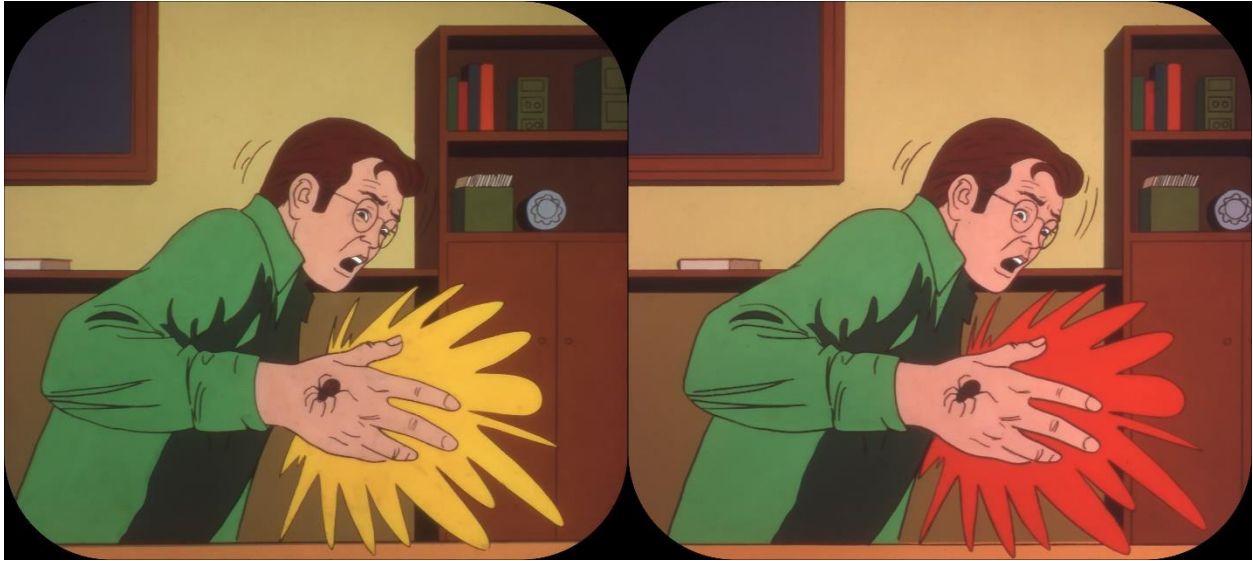


Pete Dorsett View-Master Cartoon Artist

By J. Clement

Pete Dorsett created 3D drawings for View-Master packets. Originally Lew Turner did this with his 3D drawing “machine”, but when he wouldn’t sell it to View-Master, Pete developed a more free hand method. Lew’s machine could produce perfectly aligned lines in a plane and smooth transitions from near to far, but Pete’s method had increased depth jitter. Pete’s later drawings have more fine details with less obvious outlines. After 1976 Pete probably did all of the drawings. Some of his drawings were combined with dioramas by Joe Liptak to create unique scenes that combined the good diorama depth with the lively drawings at a lower cost than pure dioramas. Pete trained other artists in his method which became the standard for creating 3D reels.



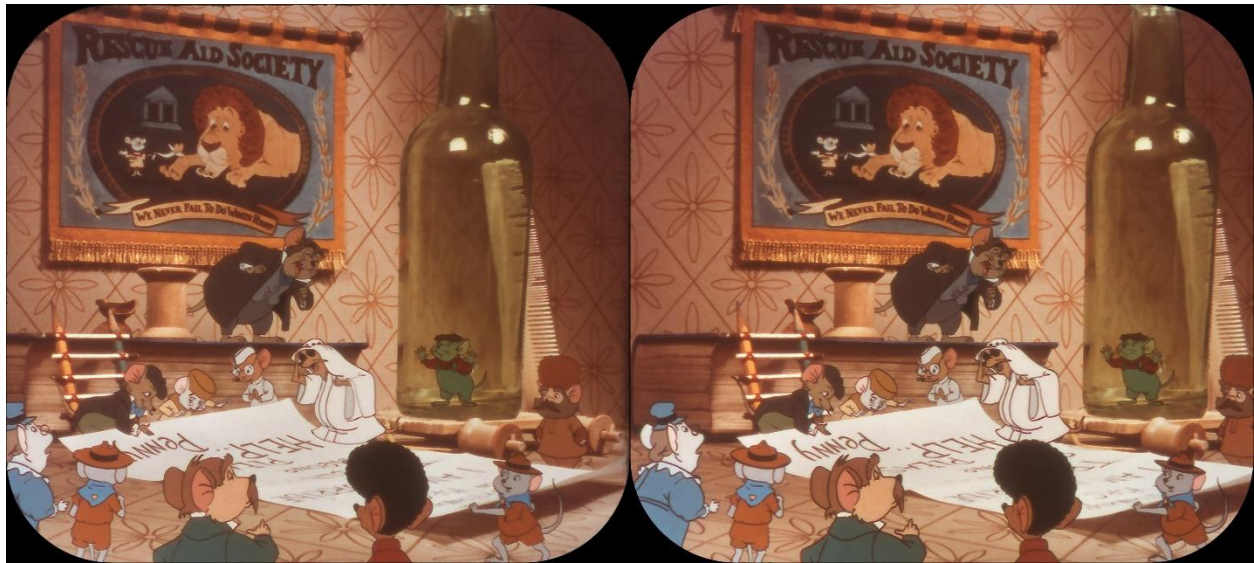
1977 H11 A2 Spider-Man in "Double Identity" - Peter gets his powers...



1977 H11 C7 Spider-Man in "Double Identity" - Spider-Man really swings!

Restoration from unfaded Kodachrome reels.

This is most probably Pete’s first packet. A2 has an effect with two very different colors to make something vibrate and stand out. He used the same effect in “The Secret of NIMH”. C7 has amazing depth.



1977 H26 The Rescuers A1 Miss Bianca reads Penny's rescue note
 Diorama by Joe Liptak, Cartoon characters by Pete Dorsett
 This is considered Pete's greatest combination packet.



1977 H26 The Rescuers C5 Penny escapes on Medusa's swamp buggy!
 Diorama by Joe Liptak, Ship by Frank Visage
 Cartoon characters by Pete Dorsett



1978 J29 C5 Delayed Date - "What a cute costume!"
(The sign has 3D depth jitter)



1978 J29 B6 Mickey & The Beanstalk - The giant chased us
Diorama by Joe Liptak, Cartoons by Pete Dorsett, uncredited



1978 J23 A1 Godzilla - The cruise ship suddenly went down
 Cartoon by Pete Dorsett, uncredited
 Restoration from faded original by J. Clement



1978 J23 C2 Godzilla - The attack drove him toward the water
 Cartoon by Pete Dorsett, uncredited
 Restoration from faded original by J. Clement

The depth cues in this set look good through a standard viewer, but when viewed at higher resolution there are obvious problems. Many details are actually just flat planes at different distances, and some details are at the wrong depth compared to other details. Some ocean shore line scenes have a flat vertical ocean rather than having depth. The profusion of detail is very good.



Sample of Godzilla restoration. Restored half on the right.



1979 K37 A3 Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day - Pooh catches Piglet's scarf
Diorama by Joe Liptak, Cartoon characters by Pete Dorsett



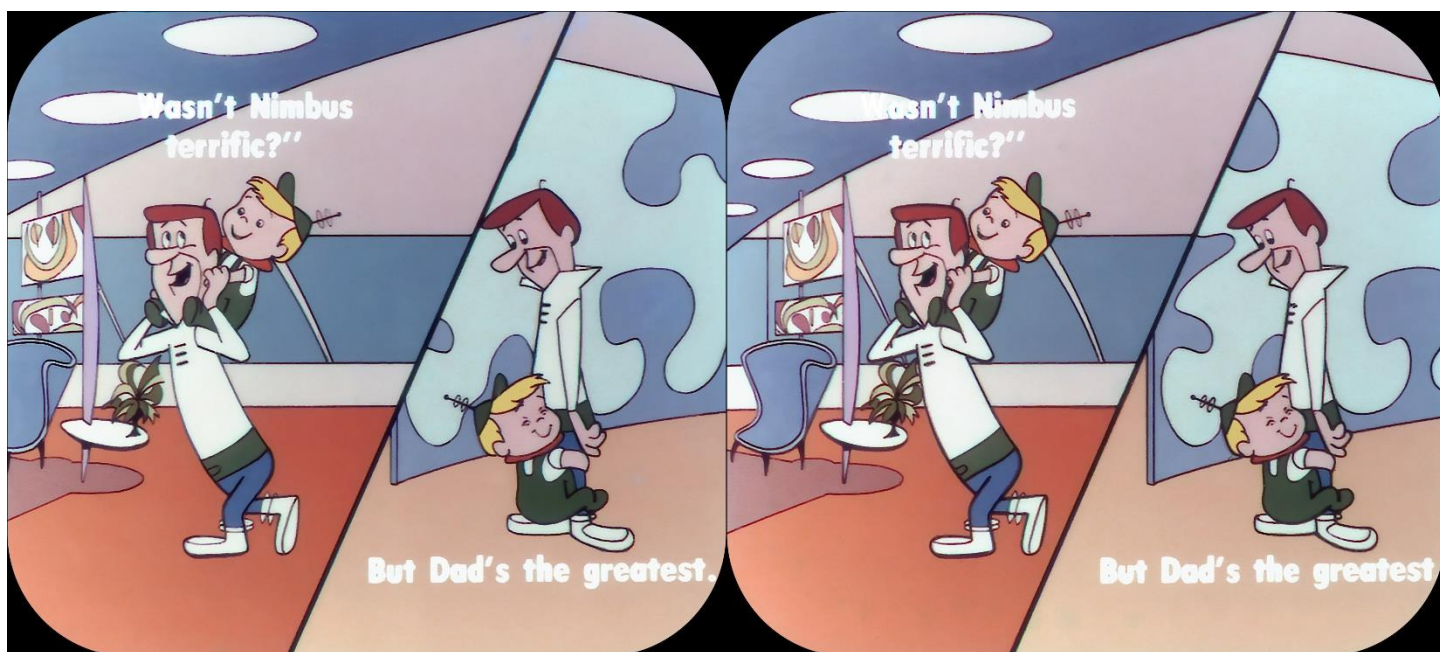
1979 K37 B7 Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day - Honey thieves on parade!
 Most K37 reels have turned magenta, but the 3034 reissue has not faded.
 These images were restored from the 3034 blister pack.



1980 L29 Fox and The Hound A1 Widow Tweed discovers Tod
 Diorama by Joe Liptak, Cartoons by Pete Dorsett, uncredited



1980 L29 Fox and The Hound C4 Tod attacks the bear



1981 L27 C6 The Jetsons - Elroy and his Dad are pals

Cartoon scenes by Pete Dorsett

Restoration from a faded original by J. Clement

The Jetsons has fairly simple details with a limited color palate. The depth is very good. It is very simple compared the The Secret of NIMH. It is not possible to say if this was definitely done by Pete, but according to Wolfgang Sell, Pete worked alone. Since it is dated 1981 there may be some late production runs which have not faded.

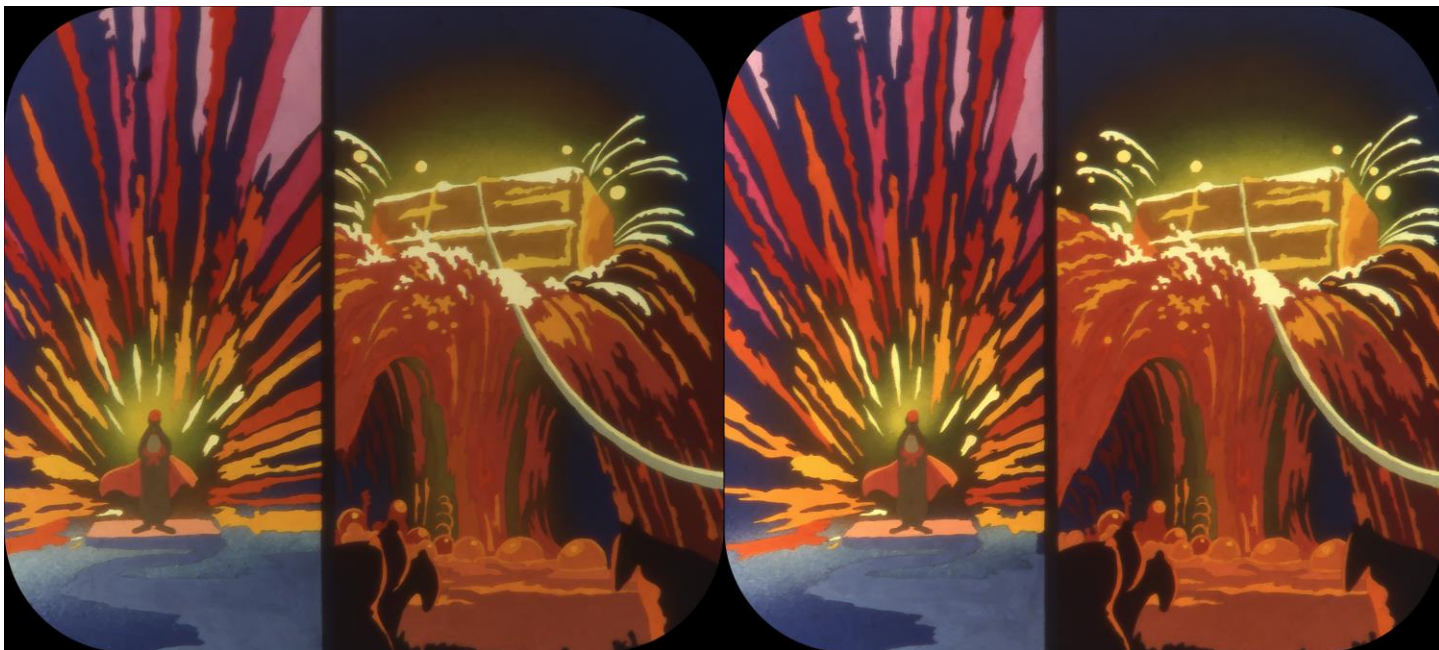
As Pete worked, his ability to create smooth depth cues improved. The Secret of NIMH was his proudest achievement and may be considered his greatest creation. The depth in this set is excellent with smooth transitions and only slight depth jitter. Pete was a master 3D artist.



1981 4008 A5 THE SECRET OF NIMH - Mrs. Brisby flies to Owl for help in moving her house.



1981 4008 B3 THE SECRET OF NIMH - Justin tells them of rats' plan to leave farm



1981 4008 C6 THE SECRET OF NIMH – Mrs. Brisby raises house with magic amulet.



1981 4008 C7 THE SECRET OF NIMH - The happy Brisby family has a new home.

As the View-Master plant in Portland did not keep good written records of who created the various reels, the identification of particular reels depends upon oral accounts gathered by Wolfgang Sell in the 1990s, credits on the booklets, copyright dates, and stylistic comparison. Wolfgang and Mary Ann Sell published the accounts in “View-Master Memories.” Many booklets had no credits, especially for the cartoon artists. There are credits for Lew Turner up to 1973 on combined diorama-cartoon packets. According to Wolfgang, Lew’s output decreased as he did more contract work. Wolfgang credited Pete for “The Rescuers” and “The Secret of NIMH”, but neither has any printed credits. Looking at available reels there were a fair number of cartoon packets in the early 1970s, but only a few in 1974 to 1975 with only a reissue in 1976. Then in 1977 and 1978 a large number were produced. From this one might infer that Pete took over as the in-house 3D cartoonist in 1977. Since he trained others in his technique, it is not possible to unambiguously determine which ones he did personally. The other evidence is that H11 has several depth discrepancies, but Lew Turner’s views usually have no obvious discrepancies because he used a 3D drawing machine.

Since GAF at the end of 1977 switched to a poor film stock that faded to magenta in 20 years, much of Pete’s early work up to 1981 is only available on magenta-colored reels. The earliest work is available in unfaded Kodachrome, and all of the later work as well as reissues are available in unfaded reels after View Master International/Tycho used a different film stock. The reels after 1989 are again subject to severe fading. However, it is still possible to restore most of the magenta-colored reels using digital ROC by Applied Science Fiction. The ROC restoration will have close to correct color, but not the original brightness, saturation, and contrast.

According to Wolfgang, Pete joined View-Master in 1965 and left in 1987. He started in the print shop, but quickly became an artist designing cover jackets and booklet illustrations. Then when Lew became less available, he volunteered that he could create 3D cartoons, and his legacy survives in many beautiful, cartooned 3D scenes. Fortunately his collaborations with Joe Liptak and The Secret of NIMH all survive in some unfaded copies.



Pete Dorsett creating a drawing, Circa 1970s
3D photo by Cliff Bond, Hank Gaylord, Digitization-Wolfgang Sell, Restoration-J. Clement

Bibliography: *View-Master Memories* by Mary Ann & Wolfgang Sell

Partial list of probable Pete Dorsett's packets, none are credited:

1. 1977 H11 The Amazing Spiderman in "Double Identity"
2. 1977 H26 The Rescuers (with Joe Liptak)*
3. 1977 H39 Thor in the Wrath of Odin
4. 1977 H43 Captain America
5. 1977 H56C Mr Magoo
6. 1978 J1 Buck Rogers
7. 1978 J12 The Pink Panther
8. 1978 J21 Little Orphan Annie
9. 1978 J23 Godzilla's Revenge
10. 1978 J26 The Incredible Hulk
11. 1978 J27 The Sub-Mariner
12. 1978 J28 Tweety and Sylvester
13. 1978 J29 Mickey Jubilee (with Joe Liptak)
14. 1978 J60 Dumbo
15. 1978 L27 The Jetsons
16. 1978 L28 Garfield Goes to the Pound
17. 1978 L46 Superman II
18. 1979 K31 The Amazing Spiderman versus Doctor Octopus
19. 1979 K36 The Fantastic Four
20. 1979 K37 Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (with Joe Liptak)
21. 1979 K53 Super Heroes
22. 1979 Spider Man & Dr. Octopus
23. 1980 K8 The Five Senses
24. 1980 L7 Spider Woman in The Enforcer Strikes
25. 1980 3048 Donald Duck's Vacation
26. 1980 L27 The Jetsons
27. 1980 L29 The Fox and the Hound (with Joe Liptak)
28. 1981 L31 Batman
29. 1982 1006 Popeye
30. 1982 1009 Daffy Duck
31. 1982 1008 G. I. Joe
32. 1982 1008-E Action Force
33. 1982 4008 The Secret of Nimh*
34. 1982 7111 Smurfette
35. 1982 N1 Flying Smurf & Smurfette
36. 1982 N2 Traveling Smurf
37. 1982? RP3081 Steamboat Willie
38. 1983 1005 Rose Petal Place
39. 1983 D232 Inspector Gadget
40. 1984 1042 Cabbage Patch Kids
41. 1984 1055 Voltron Defender of the Universe
42. 1984 3048 Donald Duck's Vacation
43. 1985 1936 Masters of the Universe

* Attribution confirmed by Wolfgang Sell